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Welcome and Introduction

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PRELIMINARY REMARKS

This special Health Law Symposium Issue is just that. In April 1998, I proposed to the *University of Miami Business Law Review* Executive Board and Law School Faculty and Administration that we consider publishing a Symposium issue. Health care was an obvious and timely subject. Health care had become as much or more about business and law than about clinical health. As such, this Symposium offers revered perspectives about many of the elements constituting modern health care in the United States and Florida, specifically.

While manageable in length, the Issue is both broad and dense in its coverage of current and pervading themes in health care law and business. Simply, the Issue is a fantastic resource. The participants and/or authors represent a sample of the leading medical, business and legal health care practitioners. They structure and serve both the national and the dynamic South Florida health care marketplaces. Throughout this Issue, they highlight various themes: Patients concerned not only with getting well, but about accessing and paying for care. Simultaneously, providers, whether doctors, nurses, or administrators, are presented business models offering unprecedented financial growth and earning shadowed by myriad and complicated layers of laws and regulations. These varied concerns meet, if not collide, at the interface of clinical health care, business and law. An objective of an effective health care system may be as Fred Messing, COO of Baptist Health Systems of South Florida, stated: "it's clinical excellence first and foremost, service excellence, and fiscal excellence." This Symposium collects diverse practices and experiences which define, support and/or question such a formula.

Timothy M. Ravich
Editor-in-Chief